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MADIGAN NAMES COTTON BOARD MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has appointed six members and six alternate members to the Cotton Board, which administers the national cotton research and promotion program.

Named, by state, are:

Arizona—Wilbur H. Wuertz, Casa Grande; alternate, Larry Jarnagin, Litchfield Park; Arkansas—William A. Baxter, Watson; alternate, Ross D. Hughes, Blytheville; Georgia—John M. Ruark, Bostwick; alternate, Marilyn S. Webster, Waynesboro; Mississippi—Richard B. Flowers, Tunica; alternate, John S. Howie, Yazoo City; Texas (# 2 Position)—Daniel A. Hirt, Garden City; alternate, William R. Bickley, Pecos; Texas (# 4 Position)—Weldon F. Walker, Stamford; alternate, Woodrow Anderson, Colorado City.

The appointees will serve for terms ending Dec. 31, 1994.

The Cotton Board is composed of 20 producer-members and their alternates, plus one public member who serves as a consumer adviser. Each cotton-producing state is represented on the board, with membership proportional to production. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.

Designed to advance the position of cotton in the marketplace, the research and promotion program is funded by assessments on domestic producers and is carried out by Cotton Incorporated under contract with the Cotton Board.

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USDA'S 68TH AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE OPENS DECEMBER 3

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—Talks by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan and U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills will highlight Agriculture Outlook '92, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 68th Agricultural Outlook Conference, to be held here Dec. 3-5.

Madigan will open the conference at 9 a.m. EST on Tuesday, Dec. 3, with a keynote address on new opportunities being created by alternative uses for American crops. The secretary has made this issue a cornerstone of his program to expand growth and income for American farmers.

Madigan, who will also unveil the 1991 Yearbook of Agriculture, "Agriculture and the Environment," will be followed by Michael J. Boskin, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and James R. Donald, chairperson, World Agricultural Outlook Board. Boskin will forecast the U.S. economy and Donald will present the outlook for U.S. agriculture and international trade.

The opening session and all other plenary sessions on Tuesday will be televised live over C-band satellite from USDA's Jefferson Auditorium.

At 10:30 a.m., Madigan is scheduled to hold a news conference, for media only, which will be carried over satellite until 11 a.m. and rebroadcast on satellite at 3:45 p.m.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman will moderate an 11 a.m. session on turning environmental needs into farm opportunities. It will feature Bruce Gardner, assistant secretary of agriculture for economics, James R. Moseley, assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and the environment, and Professor Otto Doering, Purdue University.

At 1:45 p.m., U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills and a leading Mexican negotiator will report on prospects for agricultural trade reforms and World Bank Analyst Karen Brooks will discuss trade opportunities resulting from the emerging market economies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

At 3:45 p.m., Administrator Keith D. Bjerke and Acting Assistant Deputy Administrator Bruce Weber of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will report on the accomplishments and problems in implementing the new farm bill. They will respond to questions phoned in by satellite viewers.

Two other sessions will also be at 3:45—one on dairy prospects and programs and another on transportation as a vital link in North American free trade.

Madigan will host a conference reception at 5:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, the conference starts at 8:30 a.m. and will include numerous breakout sessions on specific topics. None of the sessions will be televised. Scheduled participants for the morning include Jay Vroom, president, National Agricultural Chemicals Association; Allen A. Terhaar, executive director, U.S. Feed Grains Council; Brian Fisher, executive director of the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics; George Dunlop, president, United Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Association; and representatives of foreign produce associations. At noon, Representative William Emerson of Missouri will speak at the Sixth Annual Cotton Luncheon.

On Wednesday afternoon, scheduled participants include Dr. Lockwood Marine, vice chairman, National Oilseed Processors Association; Robert H. Wayland, III, director, Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds; Sam Brownback, Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture; Joel P. Haggard, vice president, U.S. Meat Export Federation; and Van R. Olsen, president, U.S. Beet Sugar Association.

Madigan will open a session at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, on opportunities for better nutrition. This program will include discussion of food label reforms, nutrient content of foods and food assistance. Other speakers include Margaret Glovin, USDA food safety official; Edward Scarbrough, director of nutrition and food sciences, Food and Drug Administration; Carol Scroggins, president, Consumer Voice, Inc.; J. Edward Thompson, chief food and drug counsel, Kraft General Foods, Inc.; and Dr. Gilbert A. Leveille, vice president of research and technical services, RJR Nabisco.

The entire nutrition session, lasting until 12:30 p.m., will be televised on satellite. A concurrent session will be held on opportunities for strengthening rural America, moderated by Roland Vautour, under secretary of agriculture for small community and rural development. Speakers will include Walter E. Hill, deputy under secretary of agriculture for small community and rural development and Winthrop P. Rockefeller, chairman of the board of Winrock Farms, Inc., and chairman of the President's Council on Rural America. The conference will close at 12:30 p.m.

For additional information on the program, registration and the satellite broadcast, telephone (202) 720-3050. Call (202) 690-1534 starting at 8:30 a.m., Dec. 3. The registration fee is \$45, which includes the published proceedings or four 90-minute audiotapes, the Secretary's reception Tuesday evening and coffee breaks during the conference. A reduced fee of \$25 will be charged to Thursday-only attendees. The registration fee is waived for accredited media.

Attendees may register early 1-5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2.

NOTE TO EDITORS: A media room will operate throughout the conference in room 4302 of USDA's South Building. For information call Diane Decker at (202) 219-0494 before the conference and (202) 690-2018 or (202) 690-0923 during the conference.

The televised sessions on Dec. 3 and 5 will be transmitted on Westar V satellite channel 23, 4160 mhz, both days. The 9 a.m. opening session Dec. 3 will be retransmitted at 12:15 p.m. On Dec. 5, the 8:30 a.m. session on opportunities for better nutrition will be repeated at 12:30 p.m.

Audio cassette of each session and video cassettes of televised session will be available by mail from a vendor.

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U.S. INDUSTRY BUYS 412 MILLION LBS BURLEY TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Nov.25—U.S. cigarette manufacturers purchased 412.2 million pounds (farm sales weight) of burley tobacco during the 1990 marketing season, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 1991 (excluding pre-1985 loan stocks).

The manufacturers' purchase intentions for the 1990 crop were 395.1 million pounds. Actual purchases were 104.3 percent of intended purchases.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 requires each major domestic cigarette manufacturer to purchase at least 50 percent of their intentions to avoid the assessment of a penalty.

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USDA SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR HEARING ON ALTERNATIVES TO MILK ORDER BASE PRICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking proposals to be considered at an early 1992 national hearing on alternatives to the Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price currently used to set minimum prices in all federal milk marketing orders.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said a study listing alternatives to the M-W price is being released today. The M-W price is the average of prices paid to farmers in the Minnesota-Wisconsin area for manufacturing grade (Grade B) milk, or, milk eligible for use only in manufactured milk products.

In effect since the early 1960's, the M-W price has been widely accepted in the dairy industry as a good measure of changes in the supply and demand for milk nationally, Haley said.

A continuing decline in Grade B milk production, in part the result of more stringent sanitary requirements on dairy farms, is gradually making the M-W price unusable for formulating milk prices, he said.

"Eventually, there will not be enough of that kind of milk sold to make a reliable base price," Haley said. "USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, which compiles the M-W price, questions whether it will be able to provide that price much after mid-1992."

The 1990 Farm Bill required USDA to study and to hold a hearing on the M-W price issue, Haley said. "Actually, USDA had initiated a study on price alternatives before the 1990 Farm Bill required it," Haley said.

The study released today lists several possible alternatives to the M-W price. One forms a price based on a combination of grades A and B milk prices in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Another uses a grade B milk price listed in Agricultural Prices, published monthly by the NASS.

Others alternatives include formulas reflecting prices of milk products. The theory of using these formulas to form a price is that one works from the price paid for products back to the price that should be paid for milk used to make those products.

"The study released today is not intended to substitute for proposals to be aired at the 1992 hearing," Haley said. "Proposals to be discussed at the hearing should come directly from the dairy industry and the public, who may wish to include those in the study."

Proposals should be mailed by Jan. 31, 1992 to the Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, tel. (202) 720-5751.

Copies of USDA's study of the M-W price issue are available from that office or from any federal milk market administrator's office.

Formal announcement of the hearing will appear in a future issue of the Federal Register.

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INDIANA-BASED COMPANY LICENSES USDA PATENT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26—A major manufacturer of infant formula has been granted a license for a low-fat milk concentrate developed and patented by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

The concentrate provides reconstituted milk with the texture of whole milk and the cholesterol content of skim milk.

Mead-Johnson Nutritional Group of Evansville, Ind. reached the agreement with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The company is studying various uses of the ARS patent.

The milk concentrate was invented by ARS' George N. Bookwalter and Steven A. Lyle of the agency's National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, Ill. An eight-ounce serving of milk made from the concentrate contains just four milligrams of cholesterol compared with whole milk which contains 33 milligrams of cholesterol.

Past attempts to concentrate dry whole milk resulted in difficulties reconstituting the butterfat. Bookwalter, a research food technologist, found that combining nonfat dry milk with a critical level of water, then blending in cholesterol-free oil like soybean, corn or peanut, overcomes the need for emulsifiers and homogenizers.

"The key thing is you don't get oil separation even though you aren't using a homogenizer," Bookwalter said. "The oil gives it much greater palatability than skim milk."

Also, the concentrate, which can be frozen, occupies about 75 percent less storage space than fluid milk, decreasing transportation costs, Bookwalter said.

Ann Whitehead, coordinator of ARS' national patent and license program, said the license agreement with Mead-Johnson is non-exclusive so the technology can be licensed by other companies.

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MAINE IS FIRST STATE TO BE FREE OF PSEUDORABIES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26—the U.S. Department of Agriculture today recognized Maine as the first state to be free of pseudorabies, a costly disease of swine and other livestock.

According to Lonnie King, deputy administrator for Veterinary Services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the APHIS action declaring Maine pseudorabies-free was based on a recent recommendation of the National Pseudorabies Control Board.

The board is a six-member body created in 1985 through joint action by the Livestock Conservation Institute, the National Pork Producers Council and the U.S. Animal Health Association. It is made up of two representatives appointed by each of these industry organizations.

“The board serves as a unique industry voice in evaluating state programs,” King said. “All applications for changes in a state's status in the five-stage state-federal-industry pseudorabies program are routed to members of the board, and the combined opinion of the board is considered by APHIS before formal status is granted.”

King said states participating in the eradication program advance from stage 1 to stage 5, which represents official recognition as being free of pseudorabies. Stage 1 is preparation. Stage 2 is control. Stage 3 is mandatory clean-up of pseudorabies-infected herds. Stage 4 is surveillance to make sure no infection remains, and stage 5 is achieved when a state goes for a year without finding an infected swine herd after entering stage 4.

In other recent actions, Utah moved from stage 2 to stage 4; Colorado from stage 2 to stage 3; and Minnesota from stage 2 to a combination stage 2/3 state.

Pseudorabiis a contagious livestock disease that is most prevalent in swine. Other animals, including cattle, sheep, dogs and cats, can catch pseudorabies from swine. In those species, it almost always causes a quick death. The disease does not affect humans.

Although pseudorabies often causes death in newborn pigs, older hogs can survive the infection and remain carriers of the virus for life. Stress or other conditions, however, can reactivate the virus.

Currently, 11 states and Puerto Rico are in stage 1; 19 are in stage 2; two are combination stage 2/3; 13 are in stage 3; three are in stage 4; and one—Maine—is pseudorabies free. Nevada has applied for stage 3 and will qualify as soon as all regulations are in place.

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FGIS RESCINDS TYPE EVALUATION HANDBOOK

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today rescinded the FGIS Type Evaluation Handbook. The handbook contained procedures and criteria for submitting, evaluating and approving prototype grain testing equipment.

Since the handbook was published in 1988, increasing numbers and types of prototype equipment have been submitted to FGIS for evaluation, said FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz. Testing and evaluation guidelines in the handbook fostered unnecessary duplication of officially approved equipment, he said.

The rescission does not affect the current regulations which provide for evaluation of prototype equipment upon a determination of need by FGIS. Applications for evaluation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

FGIS is currently drafting new equipment evaluation procedures.

The rescission becomes effective upon publication in the Nov. 27 Federal Register.

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